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| **STRUCTURED ESSAY GUIDE** |

✅ After completing all PEEL steps, combine them into a polished paragraph so that students can visualize what a strong answer looks like.

**STEPS**

1. State your stand – E.g. I agree to an extent.
2. Use PEEL format to explain the given point.
3. USE PEEL format to explain another point.
4. Conclude

**PEEL format.**

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| **POINT** | * Write out the point that has been given in the question. * What is the point about? Why did it come about? * Use the same wordings as in the question to ensure you are answering the question. |
| **ELABORATE WITH EXAMPLE** | * State a specific example to support your point. * Who? What? Where? When? |
| **EXPLAIN** | * Explain the impact of the point and connect it back to the question. |
| **LINK** | * Link back to the question. |

**CONCLUSION format**

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| **Weighing both points** | * Short term vs long term point * A long-term point would be a factor that has been present for a long time. * A short-term point could be a trigger event that sparked the outbreak of the incident. |
| **How severe was the impact?** | * Which point had a bigger impact – e.g. affected more people /countries. |

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| **SAMPLE ESSAYS** |

**IMPACT OF WW1**

**“The main purpose of the Treaty of Versailles was to prevent another major war”. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. (10m)**

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| **POINT** | One of the purposes of the Treaty of Versailles was to prevent another major war. World War 1 had caused millions of deaths and destruction. To avoid a repeat of this, the Allies wanted to punish Germany harshly so that it will not start another war. |
| **ELABORATE WITH EXAMPLE** | For example, Germany was made to accept all blame for the war and hence made to pay large amounts of reparations. They had to pay 6.6 billion pounds to the Allies as payback for the damage and death they caused. Large amounts of territories were also taken away from Germany such as its overseas colonies. |
| **EXPLAIN** | This would keep Germany weak, and it would be unable to rise again to start another war. |
| **LINK** | Therefore, one of the purposes of the Treaty was to prevent another major war. |

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| **POINT** | Another purpose was to seek revenge. Germany had attacked France twice causing immense suffering on the French. The French wanted to seek revenge by punishing Germany harshly and ensure it will be unable to attack it again. |
| **ELABORATE WITH EXAMPLE** | For example, France ensured Germany’s military was reduced to 100,000 soldiers and it was not allowed to have an Airforce. The Rhineland was demilitarised to ensure the French border would be protected from Germany. |
| **EXPLAIN** | This would keep Germany militarily weak, and it will be unable to threaten France again. |
| **LINK** | Therefore, another purpose was to seek revenge. |

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| **CONCLUSION** | In conclusion the primary aim was indeed to prevent another major war. The harsh terms imposed on Germany, were designed to keep Germany economically and militarily weak, thereby reducing the likelihood of future conflicts. However, the desire for revenge, particularly from France, was a significant underlying motive that shaped the severity of these terms. While revenge played a crucial role, it was ultimately a means to the end of ensuring long-term peace and stability in Europe. |

**COLD WAR**

**“The main reason why superpower rivalry intensified after 1946 was due to the actions of USA”. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. (10m)**

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| **POINT** | I agree that the USA’s actions intensified rivalry with the USSR after 1946. The USA was determined to stop the spread of communist and adopted a policy of containment to ensure communist influence is contained. |
| **ELABORATE WITH EXAMPLE** | For example, the USA introduced the Marshall Plan in 1947 to support European economies rebuild after WW2. USA believed that if they did not do so, these countries would turn towards Communism, and this will threaten US interest in Europe. The Marshall Plan sought to give economic aid to help countries strengthen their economies. This helped revive the economies of these countries and led to stable economic conditions in Western Europe. |
| **EXPLAIN** | This intensified the rivalry as USSR viewed the Marshall Plan as an attempt to dominate and extern US influence in Europe and to reduce the USSR’s influence. This led to worsening tensions. |
| **LINK** | Therefore, the actions of the US intensified the rivalry with the USSR. |

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| **POINT** | However, another reason was the actions of USSR. Stalin imposed the Berlin blockade to drive the Allies out of West Germany. |
| **ELABORATE WITH EXAMPLE** | He was unhappy that the West were trying to strengthen West Germany’s economy. For example, the Allies merged their zones and introduced a new currency. However , Stalin wanted Germany to be communist and remain weak so that it can no longer pose a threat to the USSR. Stalin feared that the strengthening of West Germany would lead to another invasion of USSR in future. |
| **EXPLAIN** | This led to rising tensions and Stalin implemented the Berlin blockade to drive the West out of Germany. He blocked all land and sea access to Western Berlin depriving them of food, and other necessities. The Allies responded with the Berlin Airlift, airdropping supplies for nine months. They were determined not to let USSR win and ensured the people of West Berlin received their daily supplies. |
| **LINK** | Therefore, the actions of USSR intensified the superpower rivalry. |

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| **CONCLUSION** | In conclusion, the USA's and USSR’s actions worsened the rivalry. USA’s containment policy worsened tensions and Stalin was suspicious of their actions and USSR’s blockade was a direct challenge to the West and demonstrated Stalin's desire to assert Soviet dominance and prevent the resurgence of a strong, non-communist Germany. Both superpowers engaged in actions that heightened mutual distrust and competition. |

**VIETNAM WAR**

**“The main reason why the conflict in Vietnam escalated in the 1960s was because of the Viet Cong”. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. (10m)**

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| **POINT** | I agree that the Viet Cong did escalate the conflict in Vietnam. With an aim to unify Vietnam under one government, they increased their guerilla war against the South Vietnamese government seeking to topple the government and unify Vietnam under communist rule. |
| **ELABORATE WITH EXAMPLE** | For example, the Viet Cong sent 40,000 North Vietnamese soldiers into South Vietnam using the Ho Chi Minh Trai. They attacked South Vietnamese government soldiers, officials, and buildings. They focused on the countryside which made the area unsafe for government forces. They also attacked the US Air Force supply bases. |
| **EXPLAIN** | This escalated the conflict as South Vietnam responded with the Strategic Hamlet programme where peasants were relocated to fortified villages away from the Viet Cong. This would allow the superior firepower of the US Air Force and South Vietnamese army to destroy the Viet Cong without civilians caught in the crossfire. |
| **LINK** | Therefore, the actions of the Viet Cong escalated tensions and the conflict as it led to more deaths and destructions. |

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| **POINT** | However, another reason for the conflict to escalate was the involvement of external powers. For the communist powers, Vietnam was an opportunity to show support for a fellow communist country. |
| **ELABORATE WITH EXAMPLE** | For example, China’s Mao believed that if Vietnam became a non-communist country that was allied with USA it would make China vulnerable to attack from Vietnam. Mao was also keen to help North Vietnam to show support for Ho, a fellow Communist. Hence, he supported North Vietnam by providing funding, military equipment and supplies. |
| **EXPLAIN** | The support by China would strengthen North Vietnam which would enable them to sustain their war with South Vietnam. It would lead to more deaths and destruction further escalating the conflict. |
| **LINK** | Therefore, the involvement of external powers escalated the conflict in North Vietnam. |

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| **CONCLUSION** | In conclusion, the Viet Cong's guerilla warfare and attacks on South Vietnamese targets intensified the conflict, prompting a strong military response from South Vietnam and the United States. However, the support from external powers like China, significantly bolstered the communist forces' ability to sustain and escalate the conflict. While the Viet Cong's actions directly fuelled the fighting, the external support was a key underlying factor that allowed the conflict to grow in scale and intensity. |

**“The League of Nations was a failure in the 1920s”.** **How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. (10m)**

I agree with the statement.

The LON was unable to prevent conflicts and maintain peace between countries. This was evident during the Corfu incident in 1923 when Italy, who was also a member of the League, occupied the Greek island and demanded compensation. Greece approached the League for help. However, the League was slow to act as France was reluctant to get involved in another conflict as it was already in a dispute with Germany over the Ruhr region. Britain did not want to take action due to France’s reluctance. Eventually, the League was undermined as the decision was made by the Conference of Ambassadors who ruled that Greece should apologise and pay compensation to Italy. **This means that the League had failed at collective security as it was unable to stop aggressive nations from bullying smaller nations. The League’s failure to prevent resolve the Corfu crisis undermined its authority and discredited it as a peacekeeping organisation. It would embolden aggressive countries to continue to be aggressive**. **Hence it was a failure.**

The League was unable to convince member nations to reduce their military strength. Most League members were hesitant to disarm out of concern for their own defense. Members did not trust each other to disarm. For example, during the world disarmament conference, members were unable to come a decision the issue of Germany’s disarmament as they were more concerned about protecting their own interest. This led to Germany leaving the conference and begin a rearmament programme. **As countries continued to strengthen their militaries, it would lead to increased tensions and more chances of war breaking out indicating the League's failure in its disarmament objective. The League was discredited as an effective peacekeeping organization as it was unable to ensure countries disarmed and hence failed at collective security.**

However, they were not a complete failure. The League of Nations did have some successes in the 1920s . The LON successfully resolved disputes such as the one between Germany and Poland over Upper Silesia in 1921 and the Greek Bulgarian border dispute in 1925. In both these instances, the League effectively facilitated peaceful resolutions. In the Upper Silesia dispute, the League oversaw a peaceful vote and divided the region between Germany and Poland. The countries accepted the league’s decisions. . **The successes proved that the League was able to maintain peace by ensuring countries listen to them. This prevented the conflict from escalating, and it was able to achieve collective security.**

In conclusion, the League was a failure. It was unable to meet its objectives of disarming countries and protecting countries from aggression. These failures will eventually lead to the start of another world war in 1939. The successes demonstrated the potential of international cooperation in peacefully resolving conflicts. However, its successes were overshadowed by its failures.

**CHAPTER 2: NAZI GERMANY: SAMPLE ESSAYS**

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| The main reason why the Weimar Republic lost the support of Germans was because they could not maintain stability in the country. How far do you agree with this statement? (10m) |

**Stand:**

I agree to an extent that the Weimar Republic lost support because it could not maintain stability. However, other factors, such as economic problems also contributed to its unpopularity.

**Paragraph 1: Failure to Maintain Stability (Given Factor)**

✅ **Point:** One major reason why the Weimar Republic lost support was its failure to maintain stability in Germany.

🔎 **Evidence:** The Weimar Republic faced constant threats from both **left-wing (Spartacist Uprising, 1919) and right-wing (Kapp Putsch, 1920) groups**. The government struggled to control uprisings and had to rely on paramilitary forces like the **Freikorps** to crush the Spartacists. In the Kapp Putsch, the army **refused to follow Weimar’s orders**, showing that even the military did not fully support the government.

💡 **Explanation:** These violent uprisings made the Weimar Republic look weak and incapable of maintaining law and order. Many Germans lost faith in democracy, believing it could not provide the strong leadership needed to restore stability. This made extremist groups, like the Nazis, more appealing, as they promised to restore order.

🔗 **Link:** Therefore, since the Weimar Republic repeatedly failed to control internal threats and relied on force to survive, it lost the trust of the German people.

**Paragraph 2: Economic Problems and Hyperinflation (Another Factor)**

✅ **Point:** However, economic problems also played a key role in making the Weimar Republic unpopular.

🔎 **Evidence:** In 1923, Germany suffered from **hyperinflation** after the government printed excessive amounts of money to support workers during the **Ruhr crisis**. Prices skyrocketed—**a loaf of bread cost 250 marks in 1922 but rose to 200,000 marks by 1923**. People’s life savings became worthless overnight, causing immense suffering.

💡 **Explanation:** Many Germans blamed the Weimar Republic for failing to handle the crisis. The middle class felt betrayed as they lost all their savings. This economic chaos led people to lose faith in the government and look for an alternative, such as the Nazis, who promised economic recovery.

🔗 **Link:** Therefore, the Weimar Republic’s inability to manage the economy worsened its reputation, making it even more unpopular.

**Conclusion:**

While the Weimar Republic’s failure to keep Germany stable made people lose trust, **economic hardship was the main reason Germans turned against it**. The government had always struggled with political threats, but it was the economic crises that made life unbearable. People lost their jobs, their savings became worthless, and they struggled to survive. **This made them desperate for a new government that could fix their problems.** Without these economic hardships, Germans might have accepted an unstable democracy. But because the Weimar Republic failed to improve their lives, they lost faith in it and supported extremist groups like the Nazis. **In the end, it was economic suffering—not just instability—that truly destroyed the Weimar Republic.**

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| “The Nazis rise in popularity in the 1930s was largely due to Hitler”. How far do you agree with the statement? Explain your answer. (10m) |

**Stand:**

I agree to an extent that Hitler played a key role in the Nazis' rise in popularity in the 1930s. However, other factors, such as economic hardship caused by the Great Depression, also played an important role.

**Paragraph 1: Hitler’s Leadership and Charisma**

✅ **Point:** One major reason for the Nazis’ rise in popularity was Hitler’s leadership and charisma.

🔎 **Evidence:** Hitler was an excellent public speaker who could engage and inspire large crowds. He delivered passionate speeches that made him appear strong and decisive. He connected with ordinary Germans by addressing their concerns about unemployment, economic hardship, and national pride. By 1929, the Nazi party would have more than 100,000 members and it kept growing in the 1930s.

💡 **Explanation:** Many Germans saw Hitler as a leader who could restore Germany’s strength and bring stability. His promises to undo the Treaty of Versailles and revive the economy appealed to both the working class and business owners. His anti-communist views also reassured the wealthy, who feared the spread of communism. The wealthy would donate to the Nazis which helped them with their election campaigns helping them gain more votes.

🔗 **Link:** Therefore, Hitler’s strong leadership, charisma and ability to connect with the German people played an important role in increasing the Nazis’ popularity.

**Paragraph 2: Economic Hardship and the Great Depression**

✅ **Point:** However, the economic crisis caused by the Great Depression was another key factor that contributed to the Nazis’ rise in popularity.

🔎 **Evidence:** After the Wall Street Crash of 1929, USA recalled loans it had given Germany and businessmen removed their investments in Germany. Germany’s economy collapsed, leading to mass unemployment. By 1932, six million Germans were unemployed, nearly 40% of the workforce. The Weimar government struggled to address the crisis, and President Hindenburg frequently used Article 48 to bypass the Reichstag, making democracy seem weak and ineffective.

💡 **Explanation:** Many Germans lost faith in the Weimar Republic and turned to extremist parties like the Nazis, who promised to solve economic problems. The Nazis used propaganda to highlight the government’s failures and present themselves as the only solution. They promised jobs, economic stability, and an end to the suffering caused by the Depression.

🔗 **Link:** Therefore, the economic crisis created widespread desperation, which made people more willing to support the Nazis.

**Conclusion:**

While Hitler’s leadership and powerful speeches helped the Nazis gain support, **the economic hardship caused by the Great Depression was the main reason for their rise to power**. No matter how persuasive Hitler was, people would not have turned to the Nazis if they were not already struggling to survive. The Great Depression caused mass unemployment and poverty, making Germans desperate for change. **This desperation made them more willing to believe Hitler’s promises and support his party.** Without the economic crisis, the Nazis might have remained a small extremist group. **Therefore, while Hitler’s leadership played a role, it was the suffering caused by the Great Depression that truly pushed Germans to support the Nazis.**

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| “Nazi rule benefited the Germans”. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. (10m) |

**Stand:**

I agree to an extent that Nazi rule benefited some Germans, such as big businesses and the military. However, many groups, including workers, women, and minorities, suffered greatly under Nazi rule.

**Paragraph 1: Economic Recovery and Job Creation (Benefit for Some Germans)**

✅ **Point:** Nazi rule benefited Germans by reducing unemployment and improving the economy.

🔎 **Evidence:** The Nazis introduced massive **public works programs**, such as building **autobahns (highways)**, railways, and military factories. The **Reich Labour Service** forced young men to work on public projects, reducing unemployment. Additionally, the **rearmament policy** created jobs in the weapons industry, while businesses benefited from government contracts.

💡 **Explanation:** These policies helped millions of Germans find jobs and gave them a sense of stability with a stable income after the economic crisis of the Great Depression. Many Germans supported Hitler because they believed he had saved the economy and restored national pride.

🔗 **Link:** Therefore, Nazi rule benefited **business owners, industrialists, and unemployed Germans** by providing jobs and improving the economy.

**Paragraph 2: Oppression and Loss of Freedom (Suffering for Many Germans)**

✅ **Point:** However, many Germans such as the Jews, suffered under Nazi rule due to extreme oppression, loss of rights and violence.

🔎 **Evidence:** From the start, the Nazis targeted Jews through discrimination, propaganda, and violence. The **Nuremberg Laws** stripped Jews of their German citizenship and banned them from marrying non-Jews. They were removed from government jobs, schools, and businesses, making it difficult for them to survive. **Kristallnacht (1938)** marked a turning point when Nazi forces attacked Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues, killing nearly 100 Jews and arresting **over 30,000**. Eventually, during World War II, Jews were deported to **concentration camps**, where **millions were murdered in the Holocaust**.

💡 **Explanation:** Nazi rule **systematically destroyed their rights, livelihoods, and ultimately their lives**. Unlike other Germans, who may have lost freedoms but still benefited in some ways, Jews faced **complete exclusion, persecution, and genocide**. This shows that for many, Nazi rule was not just oppressive—it was catastrophic.

🔗 **Link:** Therefore, **Jews suffered on an unimaginable scale**. The Nazis’ policies made life unbearable for them, proving that Nazi rule caused immense harm rather than benefit.

**Conclusion**

While some Germans benefited from Nazi rule through jobs and economic stability, **the extreme suffering of Jews far outweighed these benefits**. Jews were stripped of their rights, faced violent attacks like **Kristallnacht**, and were eventually murdered in the **Holocaust**. In contrast, the economic improvements were **temporary**, while the persecution of Jews was **permanent and catastrophic**. **Since Nazi rule led to the mass killing of millions, any benefits it brought were insignificant in comparison.**

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| Explain why Hitler was able to achieve total power by 1935. |

**Paragraph 1: The Enabling Act (1933)**

✅ **Point:** One reason Hitler was able to achieve total power was the passing of the **Enabling Act (1933)**, which gave him the power to make laws without consulting the Reichstag.

🔎 **Evidence:** To ensure the Act was passed, the Nazis intimidated other parties into supporting the Act, with the SA and SS present during the vote to create fear. Communists were banned from voting, and the Catholic Centre Party was persuaded to support the act with promises to protect church interests. The Act was passed on March 1933

💡 **Explanation:** The Enabling Act **effectively made Hitler a legal dictator**. He no longer needed the Reichstag to approve his decisions, which meant he could **ban other political parties, control the press, and silence opposition**. He banned trade unions which increased support from wealthy business owners.

🔗 **Link:** Therefore, by passing the Enabling Act, Hitler **strengthened his control over the government** and was on his way to achieving total power by 1935.

**Paragraph 2: The Night of the Long Knives (1934)**

✅ **Point:** Another reason Hitler was able to achieve total power was his removal of internal threats through the **Night of the Long Knives** in June 1934.

🔎 **Evidence:** The **SA (Brownshirts), led by Ernst Röhm**, had grown powerful and wanted to merge with the German army, which worried Hitler and the military leadership as the military saw the SA as a threat to their power. Hitler viewed Rohm’s plans and growing influence as a threat to his own leadership. The SA’s growing influence also alarmed the wealthy because Rohm had plans to tax the rich. To eliminate this threat, Hitler ordered the **SS to execute Röhm and over 400 SA leaders** in a brutal purge.

💡 **Explanation:** This event helped Hitler gain **the support of the German army**, as they saw the SA as a threat to their power. Additionally, it reassured **wealthy businessmen**. With both the army and wealthy now backing Hitler, it strengthened Hitler’s rule over Germany.

🔗 **Link:** The Night of the Long Knives **secured Hitler’s control over Germany** by removing internal threats, allowing him to consolidate total power by 1935.